execution on turn-key basis, with possibilities of financing a portion of the cost of the project through government-to-government credits or on mixed financing terms.

Recovery of Unintended Profits made by Drug Companies

1606. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 21st August, 1987 captioned 'To the rescue of profiteering drug companies';

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Government have gone again to the Supreme Court for fresh directives in regard to the recovery of unintended profits made by the drug companies from poor consumers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have all the powers under the Drugs Price Control Order; and

(d) if so, what is the justification then for going to the Supreme Court instead of using the available powers to recover these profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R K JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir

(d) While requesting for grant of stay of the prices fixed by the Government, the companies concerned had given an undertaking to the Court that in the event of their petitions being dismissed and the rule discharged, they would deposit within eight weeks of the dismissal of the petitions by the Court, the difference in the prices of formulations in question for being deposited into the DPEA. Since the companies concerned have failed to do the needful, the Hon. Supreme Court has been requested to issue necessary directive in this regard. Government have simultaneously taken all other steps for recovery under the powers under the Drugs Prices Control Order.

Setting up of an Institute of Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management

1607. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has taken any decision to set up an Institute of Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management with a view to minimising the pollution risk; and

(b) if not, when the commission will go in for such an Institute which is very important from the point of view of environmental pollution and the problems related to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Load shedding in the country

1608 DR MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total period of load shedding in the country from April, 1987 to September, 1987, Statewise;

(b) what was the corresponding figure during the same period of last year; and

(c) what is the number of strikes in the power houses during the period April, 1987 till September, 1987 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY

(SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The required information is not being collated. The efforts involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with the results expected to be achieved. The information about power cuts during April to September, 1987 and in the corresponding period of last year are given in the enclosed annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIV Annexure No. 65].

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Progress in the case of Bhopal Gas victims

1609. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the case of Bhopal gas victims;

(b) the stage at which the matter is pending, and

(c) what efforts are being made by the Government of India for an early settlement by the Union Carbide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A number of interlocutory applications filed by both the parties have been decided. Attorneys for Union of India, as well as Union Carbide have been taking follow-up action on the directions given by the District Judge, Bhopal in regard to his suggestion for exploring out of court settlement. No settlement has taken place so far. The District Judge, Bhopal, has now fixed 27th November, 1987 for drawing up a schedule for hearing the pending petitions so that the case can proceed in an expeditious manner.

Out of Court Settlement for Bhopal Gas victims

1610. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Carbide Company is pressurising the Government for premature out of court settlement for the Bhopal gas victims;

(b) what are the conditions under which the Union Carbide Company wants the out of court settlement:

(c) what impact it will have on the Bhopal Gas victims; and

(d) what steps the Government of India will take to ensure fair measure of justice to the gas victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SNIGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The District Judge, Bhopal has gien directions for exploring the possibility of out of court settlement. The attorneys for Union of India as well as Union Carbide have been taking follow-up action on this direction;

(d) All possible steps are being taken to obtain fair compensation for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims expeditiously.

Automatic plant of Muzaffarpur unit of IDPL

1611. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a highly automatic plants supplied by